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# I FEEL ABUSED AND VIOLATED

## The Half Marathon returns!



See Page 10 for full story

## Victim's words as rogue traders are put behind bars

TWO ROGUE traders have been jailed for a total of eight years after defrauding the county's residents of £200,000.

Simon Gibson, 40, of King's Road, Basingstoke, and Mark Haire, 25, of no fixed abode, were sentenced on Friday at Winchester Crown Court to four years in prison each after conning customers across Hampshire and the South of England.

Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards Service investigated the pair's company, Eclipse Solar Systems Ltd, after a Tadley resident raised concerns.

The investigation found Gibson and Haire offered fake discounts and bogus 'prize cheques' which were given in exchange for cash.

They also used cold calls and pressure selling along with confidence trickery to extract money from victims who were left without their promised installations, and in some cases were sent into

debt after cheques from the company failed to clear.

One Hampshire customer, who wishes to remain anonymous, said: "The whole episode has left me with a hollow feeling of being abused and violated, almost as though my house has been burgled."

"Unfortunately not everyone in society can be trusted and there are individuals such as this pair with very limited moral standards."

"If there is anything positive to be taken out of the event, it is that I shall be more careful and sceptical in the future."

Gibson, the managing director of the firm, admitted 26 counts of fraud, and one of obtaining services dishonestly.

Sentencing Gibson, Her Honour Judge Miller QC described the scale of his fraud as 'breath-taking'.

Self-titled 'sales-director' Haire pleaded not-guilty to the 16 charges brought against him.

After a three week trial that  
• Continued on Page 2

By James Booker

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# Putting the brakes on driving offences

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

**POLICE have released details of offences committed by drivers, spotted as part of a recent crackdown on traffic felons.**

Officers from the Roads Policing Unit of Hampshire Constabulary ran Operation Tramline with similar Thames Valley Police officers.

In total, 227 offences were detected, some of which are more unexpected than others.

A man was seen brushing his teeth – toothbrush in one hand and water bottle in the other, while a woman was videoed applying make-up.

The operation ran from September 23 to 27, and has resulted in 198 people being prosecuted for various offences – most of which are 'driving while distracted'.

The roads targeted as part of the five-day crackdown were the M27, M40, M3, A34 and the M4.

Over half of all the offences registered were from drivers operating their mobile phones

as well as their vehicle.

Drivers were also spotted using laptops, iPads and reading newspapers while driving.

Sergeant Paul Dimond, who co-ordinated Op Tramline, said: "Distracted driving is proven to be a significant factor in many of the collisions on our roads."

"The vast majority were holding phones in their lap and accessing applications or texting with their hands held low – this is incredibly dangerous both for the motorist and for other road users."

"Driving distracted is one of

the 'fatal four' causes of road deaths and collisions in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

"Through innovative use of equipment and technology available to us, we will continue to crack down on this and will repeat Operation Tramline again in the future."

All drivers were slapped with £100 fines and three points on their licence, although a course is offered to some drivers to negate the points charge. Police also found eight people not wearing seatbelts and five people going through red lights.

## Music man George, 91, rewarded for his 'wicked' sense of humour!

A BASINGSTOKE man has been honoured by the Mayor with a top Care Award for inspiring his fellow care home residents.

Music-mad George Moore, 91, who lives at Pemberley House on Grove Road, has been crowned Gracewell Healthcare's Home Champion for 2013 after residents, family members and carers chose him as their winner.

The Mayor of Basingstoke Councillor Dan Putty was the guest of honour at the awards, which take place each year on October 1.

This marks the United Nations' Day of Older Persons and generally celebrates unsung care home heroes across the country.

George, pictured right, who has Parkinson's disease, moved to the town's new home earlier this year and was nominated for his kind, happy and caring nature – and for his 'wicked' sense of humour!

To celebrate his win, Innovations Jazz Orchestra will be performing for George as part of a jazz-themed party organised in his honour at the home.

Mayor of Basingstoke Coun-



cillor Dan Putty said: "I am delighted to present this award because older people should be celebrated."

"They have so much knowledge, experience and stories

that they can share and we can learn a great deal from them."

"Older people deserve the greatest level of care and to be pampered just as they are here at Pemberley House."

The Gracewell Healthcare Home Champion Awards celebrate those residents who have inspired and brightened the days of those around them during the last 12 months.

## Traders jailed after £200k fraud crimes

• From front page  
began on September 9, the jury took 10 hours and 45 minutes to find Haire guilty of 10 counts of committing fraud by false representation.

The court heard that Haire told 'glib lies' and had previous convictions for dishonesty.

Leader of Hampshire County Council and executive member for Policy and Resources, Cllr Roy Perry, said: "One of the main focuses of Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards Service is to protect vulnerable residents from fraudsters like these."

"I thank the people brave enough to come forward and bring this fraud to our attention and congratulate our officers on securing the conviction. If their criminal activity remained undetected they could still be draining the bank accounts of those who are least able to protect themselves."

## Care home petition to be handed in

A PETITION to stop the closure of a Basingstoke care home will be handed over to the county council on Saturday.

Residents campaigning to stop the closure of the Deeside Care Home in South Ham will gather at the county council offices at 11am.

Plans are in place to shut the home, as the council see it as too expensive to be brought up to modern standards.

One of the campaigners, Lynn Rich's mother-in-law is a resident in the home.

Mrs Rich, who is on the Deeside committee, said the campaign to save the Deeside home had collected over 4,500 signatures and 650 letters of support.

"We have had the most amazing response to this campaign to keep Deeside open, and I know the other homes have had their own groups going too," she said.

People can attend a meeting at Hampshire County Council on Monday night to voice their opinion on the matter.

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# Celebration of black culture and history

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A SPECIAL launch event to celebrate the formation of a new society was held in Basingstoke over the weekend.

Nearly 150 people gathered at the Popley Fields Community Centre to launch the new Basingstoke Caribbean Society and Friends Organisation, set up last month.

The theme of the day that was celebrated was the 65th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush Ship to the UK.

This vessel brought the first large intake of Caribbean migrants to the UK after the Second World War.

Paul Hamilton, a member of the society, said people from different cultures came from around Hampshire and Berkshire for the celebrations.

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

"All in all this event was a great success and a positive celebration of African Caribbean culture by the local community," said Mr Hamilton. "The annual Black History Month Celebrations are very important in putting on family events to attract all sections of the community."

Among the entertainment at the event were children's games, a dominoes competition, live music from a steel band, singing, dancing and traditional Caribbean food.

Forthcoming themed events are set to take place in Basingstoke throughout October.



All pictures courtesy of the Basingstoke Caribbean Society and Friends

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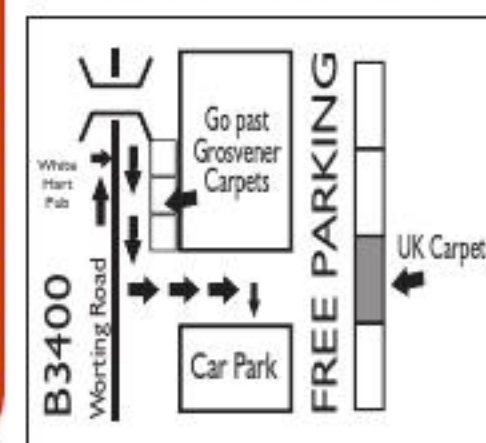


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# Woman is robbed by gang of six youths

## PM gets in touch with environmental side



### • Mr Cameron packing boxes for Thrive

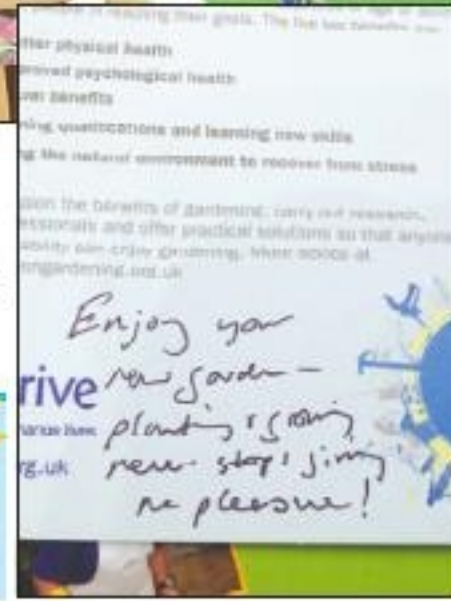
A CHARITY who helps people with disabilities or ill health transform their lives through gardening recently had a bit of help from the Prime Minister.

David Cameron helped pack gardening starter kits for Thrive, which has a base in the Vyne in Basingstoke, at the recent Conservative Party Conference in Manchester earlier this month.

Mr Cameron personalised his box with the message: "Enjoy your new garden - planting and growing never stops giving me pleasure."

### We Tweet... Do you?

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THE hunt is on for six men who left a woman shaken after robbing her on a footpath in Chineham.

The 50-year-old victim was walking along the path between St Joseph's Crescent and the footbridge over the A33 at 11am on September 28, when she was surrounded by the offenders.

They demanded money from her, forced her to open her handbag and ripped a work identification from around her neck.

PC Dave Catchpole said it was "fortunate" the woman was not injured during the incident, and appealed for witnesses.

"Fortunately the victim was not injured during this incident," said PC Catchpole.

"I believe there may have been several people around at this time on a Saturday morning.

"Were you in the area? Did you see a group of young men hanging around the area? Or did you see the incident itself?"

One of the men is white, in his early 20s of a medium build and around six foot.

He is described as having

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

a "long, oval face, and clean-shaven". He was wearing a navy zip-up jumper, dark blue jeans and trainers.

Two others are white and 'young-looking', while a fourth is described as white, aged 17-18 and slim, wearing a dark grey hooded top and blue jeans.

A fifth offender is white, aged 19, about 5ft 6ins and of medium build. He had blond hair and eyebrows and was also clean shaven. He was wearing a plain black hooded jumper, blue jeans and white trainers.

The sixth man is said to be white, also in his early 20s, around 5ft 8ins with blond hair and of medium build. He wore a blue hoodie and blue jeans.

Anyone with any information should contact PC Catchpole at Basingstoke CID on 101.

Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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## News Bites

### Smart futures...

VOLUNTEERS from a centre in Basingstoke are hoping to set up a permanent facility dedicated to helping people live a sustainable lifestyle.

The Smart Future Centre volunteers, based in Basing View, aim to operate from inside a bus on borough council-owned land in Eastrop.

The group are hoping to open a full-time centre in Basingstoke, as well as open up recycling points and publish their own free magazine.

### Mayor's praise for variety show

THE Mayor of Basingstoke has paid a glowing tribute to everybody involved in this year's Basingstoke Variety Show, which took place at The Anvil on Saturday night.

The event raises money for the Mayor's charities and community fund.

A total of 829 tickets were sold - the most in the show's history, and over 300 performers wowed the crowds.

The Mayor, Cllr Dan Putty, said: "I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the people and I am delighted at the great support of one and all. I am proud to be Mayor Of Basingstoke and Deane."

"I say thank you to all for such a superb array of local talents and such a great extravaganza at our prestigious Anvil. I also want to thank to [show producer] Ian Aherne and his team, to the backroom staff. And especially to the performers. They were fantastic."

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# Mineral site controversy

A LEADING county councillor has denied claims that a proposed mineral waste site in Basingstoke would ruin the area.

Sean Woodward, Hampshire County Council's executive member for Economy, Environment and Transport has defended plans for a mineral waste site at Basingstoke Siding.

Labour councillors Jane Frankum and Criss Connor spoke at a recent county council meeting about the potential effects of the site on the town.

They believe the planned site would disrupt the roads around the area, as well as become a "dumping ground" for the waste from the surrounding region.

"It will be the dumping ground for

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

the distribution of material throughout the north of Hampshire," said Cllr Connor.

"[There is] no end game in sight, where they can fill the hole and put it back for some useful purpose, no end sight for people to build houses in the future, no end sight for the people who have got houses there.

"Havoc will be caused because of it, and this particular piece will blight the centre of Basingstoke for hundreds of years to come.

"We are just destroying the place, which we have spent a number of years improving.

Councillor Frankum, ward member for Popley West on the borough council and Basingstoke North on the county council, added: "It will turn the centre of Basingstoke into a noisy, dusty depot for large lorries.

"The close-by Eli Lilly site will

soon have 580 more homes, and a brand new store close by. [This is] more traffic, more chaos and more disruption.

"Basingstoke [has been] ignored again."

However, Cllr Woodward said the plans were based on "extensive evidence and site appraisal work."

"This led to the allocation of the existing Basingstoke Sidings," he added.

"The plan has already been subject to several rounds of public consultation fully meeting and exceeding the requirements of the planning legislation which has fed into the plan preparation.

"This has included engagement with the local residents and businesses in the Basingstoke area."

The plans are part of the council's Mineral and Waste Plan, which was declared "sound" in June.

It was drafted in conjunction with Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council and the New Forest and South Downs National Park authorities.

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## Foodbank gets £3k boost in funding



• (Left to right) Andrew Adams, Vice Chair of Sovereign's Hampshire Regional Panel, Regional Panel member John Vickers, Chris Bawtree, Chair of the Basingstoke Foodbank, and Paula Vallance, Basingstoke Foodbank Manager (Picture courtesy of Sovereign Housing Association)

BASINGSTOKE Foodbank has been given a £3,000 boost from residents of a local housing association.

Sovereign has given the same amount to three similar banks in Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester.

Paula Vallance, centre Manager at the Basingstoke Foodbank, said: "We are mainly dependent on the charitable donations of individuals, so the £3,000 from the Sovereign regional panel has been a huge help.

"We've been able to pay for several months' rent, ensuring that we can continue opening to help those in need.

"It has also helped us with the daily running of the food bank: admin and paperwork, general supplies and

voucher printing. With the remaining money we will buy essential food when our stock levels run low."

Andrew Adams, Vice Chair of Sovereign's Hampshire Regional Panel, added: "We felt that the money should be spent on a project that would offer the most value for money and the greatest benefit to the local community, especially to Sovereign residents.

"The Basingstoke Foodbank has been running for just under one year, but has already helped so many people.

"We hope that through this donation it will continue to grow and support those who really need it."

The Basingstoke Foodbank will be celebrating its first anniversary this month.

## News Bites

### Jobseekers

OVER 700 people looking to start work or improve career prospects got free help and advice at the Basingstoke Jobs and Careers Fair last week.

The drop-in event took place at the discovery centre in Festival Place on September 30.

The borough council's Cabinet Member for Economic Strategy and Development Cllr Andrew Finney said: "The feedback we received was very positive - 78 per cent of attendees said they found it useful and 65 per cent said they felt more confident about looking for a job."

### 'No' to housing

RESIDENTS and councillors in Whitchurch have voted against the building of 36 new houses in the area.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council unanimously "strongly oppose" plans to build the houses on the Blosswood Drive allotment site.

They are concerned about the increased noise, problems with access to the site and the proposed new allotments.

### Hospital views

PEOPLE were last night invited to give their views on the region's hospital services at a roadshow at Basingstoke hospital.

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust also gave their review of the year, while GPs and hospital staff were on hand to talk and listen to residents' opinions.

Dr Andrew Bishop, chief medical officer at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Patient care is at the heart of what we do.

"We aim to provide high quality services that are local where possible, close to people's homes, and central where necessary for patient safety."



## News Bites

## Autumn Fayre

THE Basingstoke group of the Wessex Cancer Trust is holding an "Autumn Fayre" to raise charitable funds.

Families are invited to go to the event on Saturday, October 26 at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Western Way to support the charity while having fun at the same time.

There will be cake and jewellery stalls, Christmas cards, refreshments, a lucky dip, games, tombola and face painting.

It will run from 11am until around 3.30pm.

## Teenager found



A TADLEY teenager who went missing last week has been found safe and well.

Aya Rmiki, 15, disappeared last Wednesday (October 2) from a house in Main Road, sparking a police search.

However, she was found in Slough on Sunday evening. Police have thanked people for their help in finding her.

# Cancer sufferer has steering wheel stolen

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

THE wife of a prostate cancer sufferer, whose car steering wheel was stolen by thieves, has spoken of the added pressure it has put on the family.

Irene Frampton's husband John has been fighting the illness for four years, and is currently undergoing chemotherapy.

And between 10am on September 17 and 12.30pm on September 18, offenders broke into the couple's Nissan Micra, which was parked outside their home in Headington Close.

They stole the steering wheel, disconnected the interior light and also damaged the steering column, with damage estimated at £70.

Mrs Frampton said: "John is having chemotherapy at the moment - obviously with the added appointments that go with this, it means a lot of going backwards and forwards.

"It's very inconvenient, and means us having to rely on my daughter, who's got to come from Popley all the time."

Irene added that John had spent a week in hospital since the incident - saying while the theft was not the direct cause, the stress of the ordeal "did not help".

The car is a 1992 Nissan Micra and, according to Irene, "one of the oldest in the car park".

"It really is an old banger - it

does for what we need it for, but I wouldn't like to take it any distance," she said.

"Being on a pension I've got to raise the money for the other bits now.

"We're amazed, really, because nothing else was touched - there was a radio in there which was probably worth more than the car itself. There was also a sat nav and a valid tax disc, but nothing other than the interior light was touched."

The couple have lived in Basingstoke for over 20 years.

PC Dave Cook said: "This crime is unusual in that someone seems to have targeted this man's car specifically.

"It is particularly upsetting for him and his family as it is his only means of transport to his get to appointments for his cancer treatment. Did you see anything suspicious in the area or have you been offered a steering wheel for sale?"

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## Mums get treated - and have a sleepover!



• The mums benefited from a night off with a sleepover organised by Sebastian's Action Trust

A GROUP of mums recently took a night off from their full-time parenting responsibilities to have a sleepover.

Eighteen mums were treated to a day of fun, games and activities at the Bluebells in North Waltham.

Dancing, wine tasting and afternoon tea were just some of the things on the agenda for the mums, who are parents of children currently receiving

help and support from charity Sebastian's Action Trust.

One of the mums, Angela McCarthy, said: "I was apprehensive about attending the weekend as I did not know any of the other mums but it has been enlightening and extremely enjoyable to spend some time with other mums in a similar situation."

Another parent, Susan Fairley, added: "[It was an] absolutely

brilliant 24 hours! "I know it took lots of planning and it is very much appreciated.

"Thanks a million team." And Jane Gates, chief executive at Sebastian's Action Trust, added: "I am so pleased our mums have had a great time this weekend.

"We have already started planning for the next mums sleepover!"

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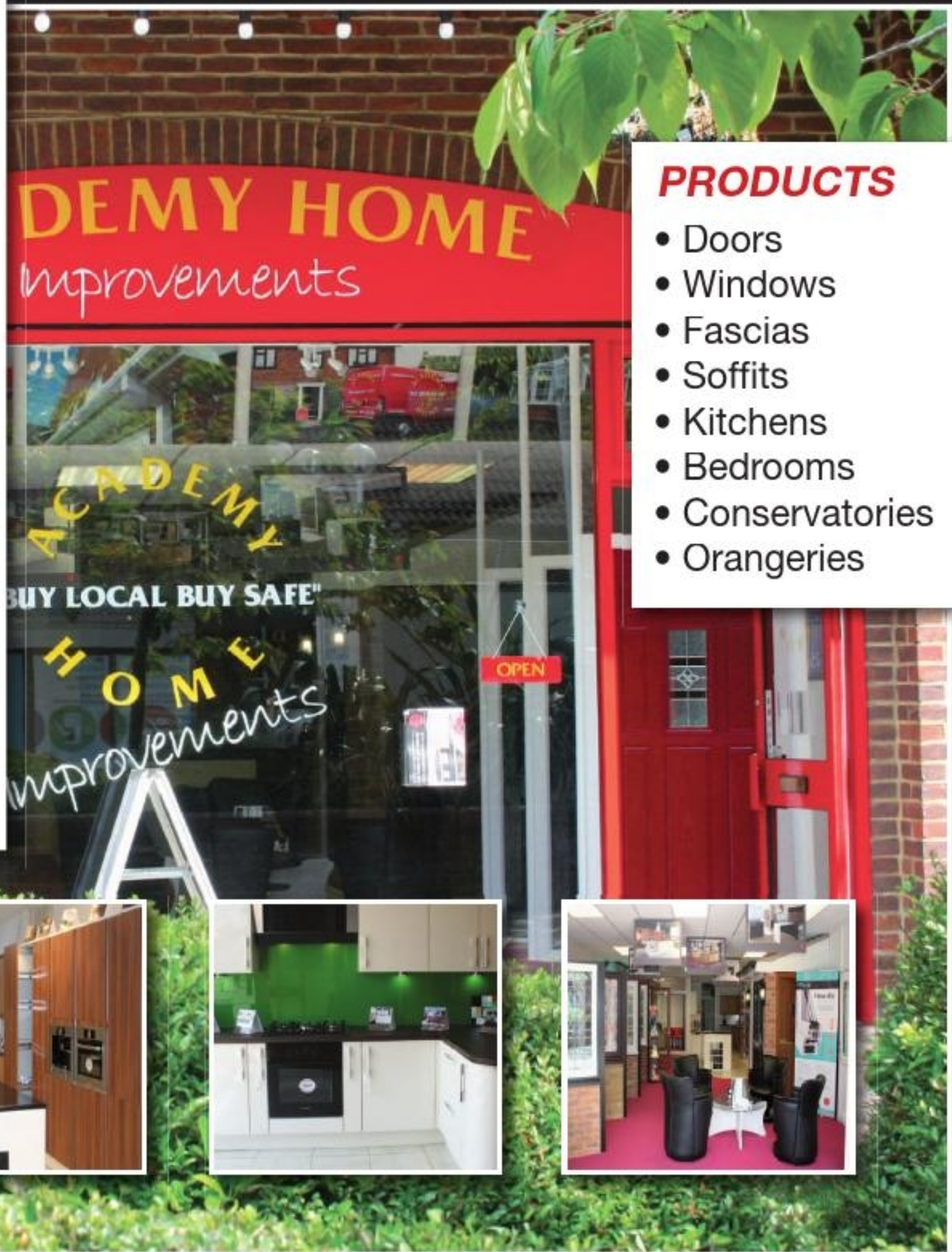
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Academy Home Improvements, your local provider in home improvement products, is delighted to announce that their new Basingstoke Showroom is now fully open. Previously known as Academy Windows, the new showroom gives visitors an opportunity to view their vast range of kitchens and other home improvements products.

The new Basingstoke showroom is the first to be refurbished under the company's new name. Academy Home Improvements offer a fantastic product range which includes kitchens, bedrooms, conservatories, orangeries, and doors plus double and triple-glazed windows. For more information please visit [www.academyhome.co.uk](http://www.academyhome.co.uk) or be one of the first to call into the new showroom.

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## News Bites

## In the money?

ST Michael's Hospice has announced the results of its lottery draw from October 4. First prize of £1,000 goes to 39568 of Tadley, second prize of £100 to 30568 of Basingstoke, third prize of £50 to 33591 of Tadley, and fourth prize of £20 to 24055 of Basingstoke.

Sixteen prizes of £5 were awarded to 95169, 86523, 16105, 54341, 55250, 95220, 04452, 26918, 39050, 57561, 13977, 81313, 22296, 87698, 82490 and 14909.

## Pensioner robbed

POLICE in Basingstoke are appealing for witnesses and information after a pensioner's wallet and mobile phone were taken during a burglary in South Ham.

Some time between 1am and 2.30am on Monday, September 30, offenders broke into a house in Balmoral Court in South Ham, while the 65-year-old was asleep in bed, and took the items.

PC David Catchpole said: "A man was seen in suspicious circumstances in the area at the time of this offence."

He is about 5ft 2ins tall, of a skinny build and was wearing a dark-coloured hooded top with the hood pulled up.

## Charity grant

BASINGSTOKE charity Naomi House and Jacksplace has received a £10,000 grant from low-cost airline Ryanair.

Naomi House and Jacksplace deputy chief executive, Mark Smith said: "We are delighted to receive this generous donation."

# Half marathon a massive success

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

**AROUND 1,400 runners took to the streets of the borough on Sunday for this year's Basingstoke Half Marathon.**

The race was won by Kenyan athlete Nicholas Kirui in a time of 1:05:32, while Dawn Godwin was the first woman across the line in 1:30:15.

Two runners turned the course into an unofficial biathlon by cycling the route before running the official race at 11am.

And chief inspector Steve Wallace, Basingstoke's local area police commander, crossed the line in last place in under three and a half hours.

However, chief inspector Wallace's task was made all the more difficult, as he was running in full police riot gear.

The race, which was in its third year, was organised by Destination Basingstoke.

"It took months of organisation and planning which, judging by the feedback we have had, has paid off," said Felicity Edwards,

race director from Destination Basingstoke.

"But what we couldn't plan for was the amazing support from the good people of Basingstoke, Cliddesden, Farleigh Wallop, Ellisfield and everywhere for making the runners welcome and cheering and encouraging them.

"There are so many thanks to make – but special mention must be made of all our marshals and volunteers who all went way beyond the call of duty to make the race a success, and to all the residents who were so patient about road closures and disturbance on a Sunday morning. We wanted the event to showcase our beautiful part of Hampshire, but it also showcased our wonderful local people."

Colin Leak of Run Fast came second, with David Meacock of Basingstoke and Mid Hants athletics club third and Jamal Mohamed of Newham and Essex Beagles fourth. Ruth Briggs of Hart Road Runners came second for the women, with Overton Harriers' Hannah Oliver third and Becky Crisp of Basingstoke and Mid Hants fourth.



Runners set off for the Basingstoke Half marathon, which was won by Nicholas Kirui (above). Both pictures courtesy of Destination Basingstoke



## Local Plan comments processed

BASINGSTOKE and Deane Borough Council are now considering feedback given by residents on the Local Plan.

The deadline for comments on the major planning proposals passed on Friday.

An inquiry, known as the 'examination in public', will be held by a Government planning inspector to look in detail at issues around the Local Plan.

It is likely that this meeting will be held during spring of next year.

Comments on the plan were taken from August 23, and throughout September, the council held consultation exhibitions in Basingstoke, Kingsclere, Bucksland, Whitchurch, Overton, Bramley, Chineham and Oakley.

The Local Plan will be a set of policies and plans that look to guide future developments in Basingstoke and Deane until 2029.

It also takes into account the need to sustain the environment, and how this will be achieved.

Anyone wishing to receive further information should call the council on 01256 844844 or email [local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk).

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## News Bites

## Machine attack

POLICE are appealing for information after offenders twice tried to break into cash machines in Basingstoke.

Both incidents happened in the early hours of September 30 – one near the Tesco Express store in Lychpit and the other outside Centaur News in Kingsclere Road in the town.

No money was stolen, but significant damage was caused to both machines.

Contact Police Staff Investigator Mike Gray on 101.

## NHS staff link-up

GPS are set to work alongside doctors at Basingstoke Hospital in a bid to ease the burden on staff at the premises' accident and emergency department.

Chiefs hope the move will cut waiting times and free up staff to deal with more cases.

North Hants Urgent Care was awarded the three-year £2.5million contract to implement the move.

## Garden appeal

VOLUNTEERS are being asked to come forward to help regenerate a community garden.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) are restoring the old station master's garden – between the train station and South View Cemetery – by installing new seating, shrubbery, and flowerbeds.

Now an appeal is going out to residents to get involved in a community planting day on Tuesday. Contact Katy Hooper on 01256 845649.

# Rescue mission pilot honoured



• Flt Lt Chris Gent was awarded for his skill and bravery on a recent medical emergency mission (Picture courtesy of RAF Odiham)

AN RAF Odiham pilot has been branded a dangerous rescue attempt to save an mortally-wounded Afghan soldier as "a team effort".

Flight Lieutenant Chris Gent, of the base's 27 Squadron, steered the Chinook he was flying through what were described as "dire" conditions, as he and his team tried to save the life of an Afghan soldier.

The man had been shot in the head by insurgents on December 20, and died despite the best efforts of Flt Lt Gent and his crew.

Fog had reduced visibility to just 50m in places, with 1,000m being the normally accepted level for safe flight.

But special exception was given in this Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) mission, due to the level of the soldier's injuries.

Flt Lt Gent, 31, was honoured with a Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Air in the latest Armed Forces Operational Awards and Joint Commanders Commendations.

"The flying conditions were dire but we absolutely needed to fly because we knew the man would very quickly die without our help," he said.

"I'm flattered at being awarded, though it was a real team effort. My crew worked incredibly hard

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

and this honour is reflective of their efforts, as well as mine.

"The nature of our work means that a lot goes unseen, but it's a real privilege to be recognised in this way.

"That said, having the chance to save someone's life is all the motivation I need in my role; it really doesn't get any more rewarding than that."

Flt Lt Gent, from Swanage in Dorset, has been flying Chinooks since 2008.

"I was aided by the aircraft's high-tech navigational instruments and my crew, who were my extra eyes in the fog," he added.

"Helping injured people and saving lives are the most important things my team do in Afghanistan, regardless of weather or nationality.

"We did everything in our power to try and save the soldier on this occasion and were saddened to learn he had passed away."

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## Community centre open again after renovation

A COMMUNITY centre in Eastrop has been officially re-opened after a £280,000 renovation.

The ceremony to open the Roger Morris Centre took place on Saturday.

Former mayor, Cllr Roger Morris, played a big role in establishing the centre, and it first opened in 1998.

It was named in his honour after he died in 2004.

His widow Susan was given the task of re-opening the centre at the weekend.

As well cutting the ribbon, there was a range of activities on display for all ages.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) spent the developer contributions on a new entrance, reception area and additional rooms for the centre.

The centre is also appealing for residents wanting to help with running and managing the building to join the centre committee.

The borough council's cabinet member for Partnerships, Cllr Cathy Osselson, said the move was "exciting" and "modern".

"The refurbishment and extension of this much used community centre will provide the Eastrop community with a modern hub which has the potential to offer exciting social, recreational and educational activities for people in the area," she said.

## Install a water softener and banish limescale!

Hard water is something we are all used to in the South, although most of us have got used to putting up with it, many do not realise that you can do something about it. It furs up our heating systems, causing breakdowns, makes it more expensive to heat our homes and damages our appliances.

The other problem with limescale is the constant cleaning of showerheads, shower screens, stainless steel sinks, the whole house can suffer where water is concerned. Limescale aggravates skin problems such as eczema and psoriasis.

With a water softener no limescale will get into the house, which means you will have to do less cleaning, stop buying limescale-related products, cut washing powder use by up to 75% and have less chance of large bills for potential future problems with your heating system and appliance breakdowns. If you were to purchase an ordinary softener you would have quite a large machine, which requires you to set clocks and lug around a 25kg bag of salt. The TwinTec S3 is different. It is small, requires no electricity and uses block salt (like two house bricks) instead of heavy bags.

Harvey Softeners has been manufacturing softeners in this area for more than 30 years. Kevin Goody (UK Water Softeners) is one of Harveys top TwinTec dealers and was voted number two in the country last year.

### Why is Kevin so successful?

He puts it down to extensive marketing, having a great plumber with over 30 years of experience installing water softeners, good customer satisfaction and recommendations. Kevin has installed 4100 water softeners in homes in this area over the last eighteen years and arranges everything from initial survey to installation.

### Get in touch

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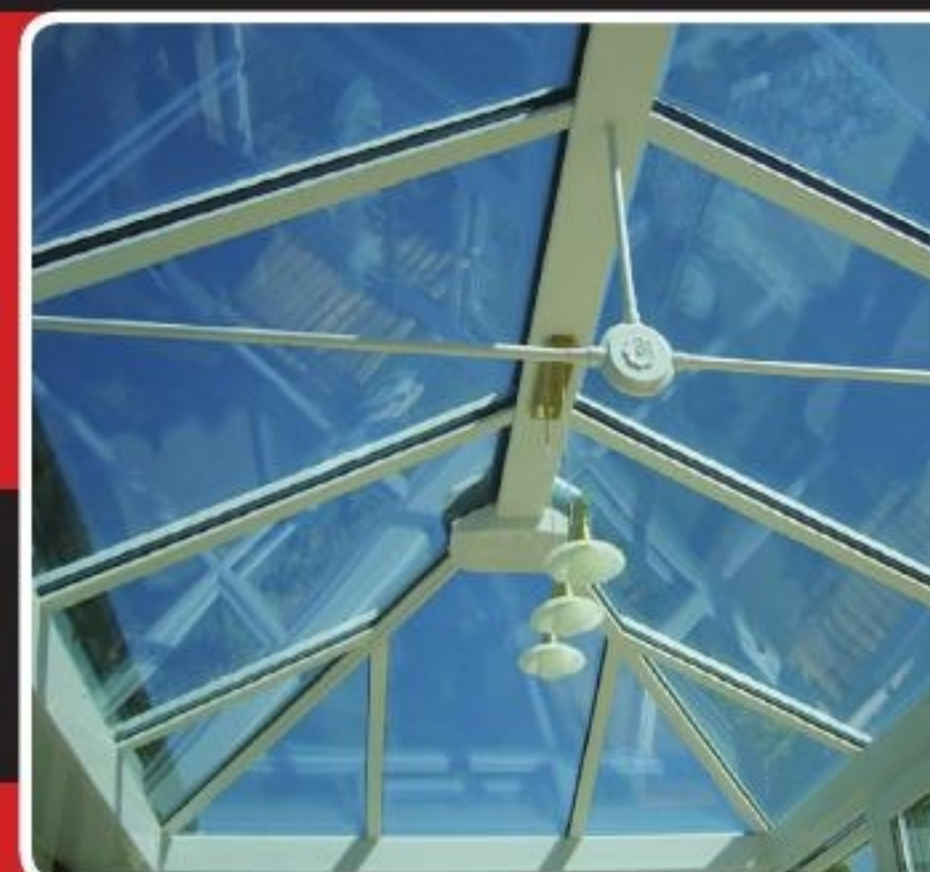
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# County set for faster broadband speeds

**HAMPSHIRE** County Council has published a map showing the benefits from superfast broadband coverage in a countywide scheme to provide a high speed network to more than 57,000 local businesses and households.

This map shows the extent of the first wave of the project, set to reach 90 per cent of premises by the end of 2015.

Planning is currently underway for the second wave of the project to reach at least 95 per cent of Hampshire by 2017.

The first premises will be able to sign up to the services in January.

Councillor Roy Perry, leader of the council, said: "Access to broadband is a vital component of infrastructure in today's world - for businesses, for education, for residents.

"In order for Hampshire to remain competitive in economic terms, to ensure quality of learning is available to all students, we want to make sure as many people as possible can benefit from faster internet connection speeds.

"I'd like to thank the 20,000 residents who have signed up in support of faster broadband which has demonstrated demand.

"The more names and email addresses we have the easier it will be for us to make the case

By James Booker

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

to extend superfast broadband coverage."

The map shows the extent of superfast broadband coverage once the initial contract has been completed in 2015.

The high speed infrastructure network extended to 90 per cent of premises in Hampshire will be capable of delivering speeds over 24Mbps.

This is in line with the national framework agreed by the department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Hampshire County Council, together with district and borough partners, has already invested £5million in the project and was awarded the same figure from Broadband Delivery UK.

BT is contributing an additional £3.8million towards the cost of installing the new fibre infrastructure, bringing the total investment in the project to just over £13.8million.

The money will stimulate investment and finance the costs of the upgrade to the network infrastructure.

If you would like more information, visit [www.hants.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.hants.gov.uk/broadband).



• The team at the Chequers celebrate their success

## Pub company crowned 'Best Employer'

**THE** team behind a pub near Hook has won big for the third time in a row at a recent awards ceremony.

Peach, the company which runs The Chequers pub at Everley Cross, scooped the 'Best Large Pub/Bar Employer' at the recent Best Employers in Hospitality awards in London.

It was also named 25th out of

the top 50 employers in the overall category.

The company took over the Chequers in June.

Manager Jordan Marr said: "This is a fantastic result for us and great recognition of everything we do to look after our people."

"You can't run a good pub without great people to look after our

guests and cook the food that goes onto their plates.

"We were very pleased to win this award a first time, and then a second, but for the company to win it three years running is really the best news.

"Getting a hat-trick is a real shot in the arm for all of us, and we'll be celebrating with all the people who've made it possible."

## News Bites

### Roadworks to end

WORK is set to be completed on a stretch of the M3 near Basingstoke this week, with council staff scheduled to finish resurfacing maintenance.

Workers have been working on the stretch of southbound carriageway between Junctions 5 and 6, as well as the Junction 6 southbound slip road. Maintenance began on Monday, and it is hoped to be finished by the end of this week.

### Firework fiesta!

TICKETS are on sale for the Mayor's Firework Fiesta in War Memorial Park on November 5.

The gates to the event will open at 6pm, with the display starting at 7.30pm.

All money raised will go the Mayor's charity appeal.

Prices are cheaper if bought in advance.

### Have your say

GPS are wanting residents to give their opinions on the Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service.

The service transports patients who meet certain criteria to healthcare appointments.

Under, new proposals, there will be a single contract for the whole of the county and the Isle of Wight.

There are currently five contracts in place.

Dr Mike Johns, on behalf of the region's Clinical Commissioning Groups, said: "Access and eligibility for the service is not affected, so patients won't have to change their plans."

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# Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts. If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

## The Hunter is back!

### Murder at play

LOCAL theatre group The Silchester Players present their autumn show *Curtain Up on Murder* from Friday, being staged at Silchester Village Hall.

The story follows an amateur drama company whose stage manager falls through a trapdoor to his death. When an actress is later poisoned, it becomes clear the murderer is amongst them.

Tickets are available by calling 01189 815600.

Alternatively, and for more information, go to their website at [www.silchesterplayers.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.silchesterplayers.hampshire.org.uk).

### The Blues Club

BASINGSTOKE Blues Club's regular concert series continues on Saturday.

And it is the West Coast blues favourites The Cadillac Kings who are coming to the Moose Centre.

Entry costs £7 on the door. Go to [www.basingstokebluesclub.co.uk](http://www.basingstokebluesclub.co.uk) for more information about the group.

POPULAR American stand-up comedian Reginald D Hunter brings his latest show to The Anvil for two nights this week, following his two previous sell-out UK tours.

'In the Midst of Crackers' will undoubtedly feature Reginald's mix of compelling and controversial humour, although the man himself is reluctant to give too much away.

"I genuinely don't describe my act," he said. "When people ask me, 'how do we categorise your comedy?' I reply, 'I don't know, I haven't watched it'."

"To try and uncover the meaning of comedy is to seek your own doom. If I figured it out, that would be the end. You can over-analyse to the point where you relieve everything of its magic."

Reginald has been a regular feature on television panel shows in recent years, with appearances on *Have I Got News For You*, *QI* and *8 Out Of 10 Cats*.

He came over to Britain aged 27 and began to develop his stand-up routine, after he felt people in his native Georgia didn't understand his humour.

"In America, I'm just another

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

big black guy with dreadlocks," he added.

"But people here get me, and that's something I've never felt in Georgia. There my sense of humour always seemed odd."

"Here my sensibility makes perfect sense. I have felt right at home in Britain since the very beginning, as this is the place that has given me the biggest opportunity."

As well as his tours, Reginald has been a regular at the Edinburgh Fringe since 2002, and still to this day enjoys performing his comedy routines.

He said: "Stand-up is such a thrill, it genuinely galvanises you. It means you can get out of bed for something you really care about."

"If I'm exhausted, the live arena is the only place where I can still find a way to do my best. It really doesn't seem like work at all."

The shows take place tomorrow and Saturday at 8pm, with tickets costing £23.



• Reginald D Hunter comes to The Anvil tomorrow and Saturday night

### It's Unmythable!

HEROES, monsters and gods from Greek mythology go head to head at The Haymarket on Saturday evening, for a hilarious show based on the iconic tales from Ancient Greece.

Unmythable is a blend of comedy, crossdressing, stories and songs, and returns to the UK after a sell-out European tour and a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe.

The show starts at 7.30pm, and tickets cost £12. For more information, go to [www.unmythable.co.uk](http://www.unmythable.co.uk) or call 01256 844244.

### Centre launched

THE Proteus Creation Space celebrates its official launch tomorrow, where it will be opened at 12.30pm by MP for Basingstoke Maria Miller.

Formerly known as Fairfield's Arts Centre, theatre company Proteus took over the site last April, and has been running artistic activities and shows since then.

The venue also hosts exhibitions from emerging artists, as well as creative workshops.

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# Entertainment

Welcome to our Entertainments page where we are showcasing all that is good in local entertainment ranging from professional to amateur acts. If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

## Revival for comedies

### Song and dance

GOTTA Sing Gotta Dance, a two-hour spectacular of song and dance numbers from stage and screen, comes to The Anvil this evening.

A full supporting company of West End singers and dancers feature in the show, along with a live band, to sing and dance their way through classics such as Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables and Oliver.

Tickets cost £23 for a 7.45pm start. To book, visit [www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk) or call 01256 844244.

### Charity abseil

BASINGSTOKE daredevils are being invited to take part in a charity abseil down the side of the town's hospital on Sunday, to help raise money for new Shopmobility vehicles.

Anyone not quite so brave can still go down and watch for free on the day.

Call 01256 350142 or email [anne@shopmobilitybasingstoke.org](mailto:anne@shopmobilitybasingstoke.org) for more information.

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

**TWO one-act plays revived after 50 years are being performed at The Haymarket from next Thursday as part of a nationwide tour.**

The Private Ear and The Public Eye were written by the award-winning British playwright Sir Peter Shaffer, and are both short and bitter-sweet comedies to be performed as a pair on the same night.

The Private Ear is set in a musky London bedsit, as one friend works with another to help him treat his date to a slap-up meal.

Meanwhile, The Public Eye sees an eccentric private detective hired to investigate an accountant's wife, who they suspect of infidelity.

It features Steven Blakeley, best known as PC Geoff Younger from Heartbeat, Siobhan O'Kelly, Jasper Britton and Rupert Hill.

"The plays have stood the test of time and endured because human nature has changed very little," said Steven. "People today relate to each other in similar ways and have the same problems."



• Rupert Hill, Steven Blakeley and Siobhan O'Kelly in The Private Ear and The Public Eye (Picture by Alastair Muir)

Siobhan added: "All the characters suffer from a lack of human contact and people are still driven by the same need for human tenderness."

"One could argue that we are even lonelier nowadays than we were back in the 1960s - the need for human kindness is even more urgent!"

Jasper said: "They challenge our attitudes, our prejudices and our preconceptions. In turn you really empathise with the characters and laugh with them and at them."

"It is a contagious and heady brew, richly packed into two hours."

The two shows are being performed by The Original Theatre Company, and founder Alistair Whatley said: "Our objective is to

find stories that we think people will relate to and will have them coming back for more."

"We choose our titles very carefully and then we tell them as honestly and with as much skill and passion as we can muster."

The shows run from next Thursday until Saturday October 19, with tickets starting from £19. For more information including show times, go to [www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk) or call 01256 844244.

### Up and comers are showcased

THE best of Hampshire's musical talent come together for an evening of performances at Central Studio on Saturday night, with Whitewash starring as the headline act.

Live and Unsigned is aimed specifically at up and coming bands, and gives them the true gig experience as they develop their music skills.

Entry costs £5 and starts at 7pm. Go to [www.centralstudio.co.uk](http://www.centralstudio.co.uk) to book, or call 01256 418318.

### Lisa Knapp comes to town

FOLK singer-songwriter Lisa Knapp brings her fiddle, strings and banjo to The Forge on Sunday, performing her collection of self-penned songs.

Lisa has been nominated for two BBC Folk Awards, and her debut album Wild and Undaunted became the Mojo Folk Album of the Year. She will be joined for the show by Irish multi-instrumentalist Gerry Diver.

The show begins at 7.45pm, and tickets cost £14. More information about the show can be found at [www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk) or by calling 01256 844244.



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**12 October**  
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**CHURCH 350TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

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**12 October, 2pm**  
**East Oakley Village Hall**  
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**18 October, 8pm**  
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**18 October, 7:45pm**  
**The Anvil, Basingstoke**  
**VAMPIRES ROCK**  
Steve Steinman plays the supremely evil Baron Von Rockula owner of the Live and Let Die club. In search of a new bride the Baron must convince the unsuspecting Pandora, who auditions for the new singing position, to cross over to the dark side and live for ever in rock n' roll hell.  
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**18 October - 19 October, 7:45pm**  
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**19 October, 7:30pm**  
**The Anvil, Basingstoke**  
**AN ACOUSTIC EVENING WITH AL STEWART**  
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**20 October, 3pm**  
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Each evening, four schools will perform four different Shakespeare plays. This year, the participating schools are Trinity School & Performing Arts College, Kennet School, Kempshott Junior, Park View Junior, Rucstall Primary School, Testbourne Community School, The Wavell School and Aldworth School.  
**01256 844244**  
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**22 October, 7:30pm**  
**Silchester Village Hall**  
**AUDITIONS FOR ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES**  
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**23 October - 24 October, 7:30pm**  
**The Haymarket**  
**AS YOU LIKE IT**  
Directed by Douglas Rintoul, this popular favourite among William Shakespeare's comedies sees Rosalind, banished from her homeland, journey into the wild depths of the forest to find her exiled father.  
**01256 844244**  
**www.anvilarts.org.uk**

**24 October, 7:45pm**  
**The Anvil**  
**THE NATIONAL YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA**  
NYJO features 22 musicians and vocalists from around the country, most of whom go on to become professional musicians  
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**25 October**  
**The Raven Hotel, Hook**  
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**25 October - 26 October, 7:45pm**  
**St. John's Hall, West End Road, Mortimer Common**  
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**Friday - 25 October 2013 8.15pm**  
**The Forge**  
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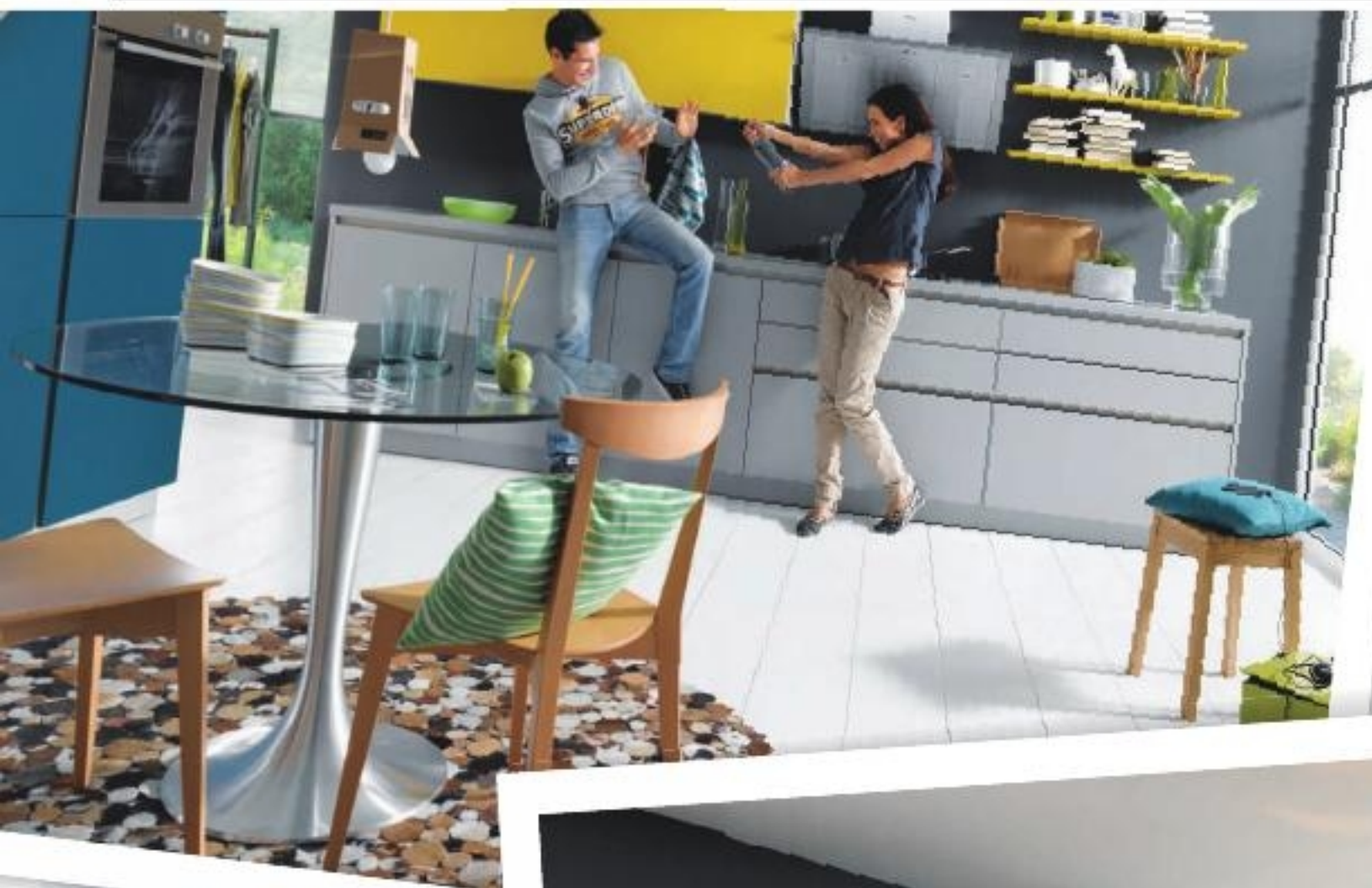
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*The Forge*

**SHLOMO HUMAN GEEKBOX**  
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**01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk**

**25 October, 7:30pm**  
*The Haymarket*

**JULIE MADLY DEEPLY**  
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**26 October 2.30pm and 7.30pm**  
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**THE SLEEPING BEAUTY**  
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**29 October, 7pm**  
*The Haymarket*

**CENTRALLY HEATED KNICKERS**  
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**30 October, 7:30pm**  
*The Anvil, Basingstoke*

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**31 October - 2 November**  
*The Haymarket*

**ALIENS LOVE UNDER-PANTS**  
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**31 October - 2 November**  
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**1 November, 7:45pm**  
*The Anvil*

**ERIC BIBB**  
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**2 November, 7:45pm**  
*The Anvil*

**THE HOLLIES**  
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**5 November, 8:15pm**  
*The Forge*

**ROD PICOTT**  
Lauded for his narrative and melodic songwriting, passionate delivery and darkly humorous onstage storytelling, Picott has had his songs covered by Ray Wylie Hubbard, Slaid Cleaves and Fred Eaglesmith among others.

But it, his brilliant stage show and his instant rapport with his audience that sets this Maine wordsmith apart from the rest. Rod, songs tackle important subjects and stand up there with the very best compositions of the past twenty years.  
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**7 November**  
*Farnham, Maltings*

**AS YOU LIKE IT**  
Directed by Douglas Rintoul, this popular favourite among William Shakespeare, comedies sees Rosalind, banished from her homeland, journey into the wild depths of the forest to find her exiled father.  
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**8 November, 7:30pm**  
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**9 November, 8pm**  
*Central Studio Queen Mary's College*

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**10 November, 5:55pm**  
*Farnham Maltings Association*

**PUCCINI: TOSCA**  
The third of The Met: Live in HD broadcasts this season is Luc Bondy, production of Tosca, starring Patricia Racette and Roberto Alagna in the roles of Tosca and her lover Cavaradossi, with George Gagnidze as the corrupt, lustful Scarpia, and John Del Carlo in the role of the Sacristan.  
**www.farnhammaltings.com**

**15 November**  
*Central Studio Queen Mary's College*

**JIMMY CRICKET, 'ÄI VALUE FOR A TENNER SHOW**  
Jimmy Cricket is without doubt a 1980s comedy icon and he, Äs lost none of his talent or energy as he presents a credit crunch busting show crammed with fun and frivolity!  
**www.centralstudio.co.uk**

**16 November, 11am**  
*Central Studio Queen Mary's College*

**MERLIN AND THE FROST DRAGON**  
Many, many years ago when King Arthur was a little boy, his great friend Merlin would tell him stories. Stories of wonder and imagination...this is one of those stories. Merlin embarks upon a journey to the frozen lands where he meets a fearsome Frost Dragon, a creature that instead of breathing fire breathes freezing air! Just when it looked like Merlin had met his match he... but then that would be giving away the end of the story.  
**www.centralstudio.co.uk**

**22 November, 7:30pm**  
*Central Studio Queen Mary's College*

**I'M AN ARISTOCRAT, GET ME OUT OF HERE**  
Paris, 1792. Revolution grips the city and the secret police march traitors to their deaths. No one is safe. Everyone is a suspect. Paris needs a hero, someone who can deliver it from this terror and restore freedom and justice. Will such a hero emerge? Yes.  
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**23 November, 3pm - 5pm**  
*Heath End Village Hall, Baughurst*

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**23 November, 8pm**  
*Central Studio Queen Mary's College*

**MARTYN JOSEPH**  
Three decades and 31 albums on, Cardiff charismatic and unstoppable Martyn Joseph (dubbed The Welsh Springsteen) continues to garner fans everywhere with his uncanny melting pot of both robust and fragile material - roots to rock, blues to jazz, Americana to folk. He won the Best Male Artist title in the BBC Welsh Music Awards. Springsteen-indebted Americana, suspended folk chords glistening beneath troubadour tales, his lyrical eloquence still inspired almost 30 years on from his debut, MOJO January 2013  
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## READER OFFERS

# New England in the Fall

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**8-18 October 2013**

- Visiting Boston, Cape Cod, Newport (Rhode Island), the battlefields of Lexington, Salem - the 'Witch Capital of the World', the coast of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, (including Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Cold Hollow Cider Mill and Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks), Stowe and Lake Champlain (including a cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen III)
- Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston†
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- 2 nights stay at the Ogunquit River Plantation hotel, Maine with breakfast
- 3 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast

### OPTION 2:

**23 September - 3 October and 10-20 October 2013**

- Visiting Cape Cod, the Island of Martha's Vineyard, the Pilgrim town of Plymouth (and the Plimoth Plantation), Boston, the battlefields of Lexington, Salem, Newport (Rhode Island), New Hampshire, Vermont and Stowe.
- Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston†
- 3 nights stay at the Resort and Conference Center, Hyannis with breakfast
- 4 nights stay at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel, Marlborough with breakfast
- 2 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast

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# Puzzles

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### Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

	9		6			5		
6			1			7	4	
2				5	8	6		1
9	1			3		2		
	4		7		9		3	
		7		4			8	6
3		1	9	8				7
	5	9			7			2
		8			4		1	

	2			7				4
6								3
		3	9		5	2		
3	1		7		9		6	4
			6		4			
5	4		1		2		9	7
		8	5		1	4		
1								5
	9			6			8	

4		8			7			
		3		8				
	1	9						
	4		9			5	2	
9			7		4			1
2	8				3		6	
						3	9	
				5		2		
			6			4		5

### Two speed crossword

#### Quick Clues Across

- 4 Neglects an obligation (6)
- 8 Spreads (7)
- 9 City state of Greece (6)
- 10 Adapts again (9)
- 11 Otherwise (4)
- 13 Took without authority (5)
- 14 Postponed (7)
- 16 Seed with strong taste (7)
- 18 Animal's nose (5)
- 19 Halt (4)
- 21 Taking a break in the meeting (9)
- 22 Medicine to prolong life (6)
- 23 Dropped (7)
- 24 Propositions (6)

#### Quick Clues Down

- 1 Looking forward to (9)
- 2 Greeting (9)
- 3 Hatred (5)
- 5 Jumps (4)
- 6 Infrequently (6)
- 7 Gazed (6)
- 9 Direct (5)
- 11 Seriously (9)
- 12 Continuous series (9)
- 15 At no time (5)
- 16 Climb (6)
- 17 Ointment (6)
- 20 Piles (5)
- 21 Increase (4)

#### Cryptic Clues Across

- 4 An age of copper and tin (6)
- 8 Spotted the go-between who was in front (7)
- 9 Walked along, having been well filled (6)
- 10 Is the crowd, indeed, in low spirits? (9)
- 11 Escape the return of the oriental mischief maker (4)
- 13 Halts the first man in the ship (5)
- 14 Initially, George made a wrongful arrest in the attics (7)
- 16 Supervise in the bishop's domain (7)
- 18 Deserve to have met a right one inside (5)
- 19 Formerly in the New Testament, and still to come (4)
- 21 Told an ace of a story (9)
- 22 It's difficult to understand anything without reflection (6)
- 23 Willingly in the case of putting the paper in order (7)
- 24 A commercial, now a disturbed liar has it, will go in all directions (6)

#### Cryptic Clues Down

- 1 I've followed the immediate order (9)
- 2 Save a portion for the replacement (5,4)
- 3 In case a central part is of the smallest significance (5)
- 5 Dare to look out (4)
- 6 Small knot gathered, but no duel was arranged (6)
- 7 The disturbances caused when the editor passes on... (6)
- 9 ... and a step up for the friend who got round him (5)
- 11 Lands without restrictions below decks (9)
- 12 And here in Rome a friend is behaving in a moral manner (9)
- 15 River in which to catch the fish? (5)
- 16 Journeying - and continuing to the Chaldean town? (2,4)
- 17 Develop, though formerly soundly censured by the critics (6)
- 20 Performed like a rising attorney, and the rest going up inside (5)
- 21 Subtle emanation that can almost be heard (4)

	1		2		3		4	5		6		7
8												
							9					
10												
									11		12	
13							14					
						15						
16		17							18			
19								20				
					21							
22												
							23					
24												

### Scribble space

### Last week's solutions

1	9	6	3	7	4	5	8	2
3	2	5	8	1	6	9	7	4
7	8	4	2	9	5	6	3	1
5	4	7	9	6	2	3	1	8
6	1	2	5	8	3	7	4	9
8	3	9	7	4	1	2	6	5
9	5	1	4	3	7	8	2	6
2	6	3	1	5	8	4	9	7
4	7	8	6	2	9	1	5	3

4	2	7	5	3	9	1	6	8
1	8	9	2	6	4	7	3	5
6	3	5	8	7	1	4	2	9
7	1	8	6	9	5	3	4	2
2	5	3	1	4	8	9	7	6
9	4	6	7	2	3	8	5	1
8	7	1	4	5	6	2	9	3
5	9	2	3	1	7	6	8	4
3	6	4	9	8	2	5	1	7

5	3	7	6	2	8	1	4	9
6	9	1	4	7	3	2	8	5
8	4	2	9	5	1	7	6	3
7	8	3	1	4	2	9	5	6
1	5	9	7	8	6	4	3	2
4	2	6	5	3	9	8	1	7
3	6	8	2	9	4	5	7	1
2	7	4	3	1	5	6	9	8
9	1	5	8	6	7	3	2	4

#### Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Ensued 7 Traffic 8 Dresser 9 Slant  
10 Wednesday 12 Yes 13 Irks 15 Attuned 17 Gear  
19 Sea 21 Thinkable 22 Loser 23 Nomadic 24 Cretins  
25 Asides

Down: 1 Endowing 2 Steady 3 Easiest 4 Daisy 5 Affair  
6 Scot 7 Trade Unions 11 Near 13 Idea 14 Silences  
16 Eskimos 18 Answer 20 Abided 21 Train 22 Lack

#### Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Incite 7 Illicit 8 Caption 9 Sting 10 Erections  
12 Roe 13 Ogre 15 Dried up 17 Ease 19 Nap  
21 Swindlers 22 Carol 23 Nursing 24 Travels 25 Posset  
Down: 1 Increase 2 Copper 3 Twitter 4 Class 5 Acting  
6 Stag 7 Indonesians 11 Code 13 Opal 14 Eyesight  
16 Undergo 18 Spread 20 Perils 21 Sleek 22 Cats



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# Competitions

## To enter this competition:

- Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to [competitions@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:competitions@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)
- Or on a postcard to Competitions, Basingstoke Observer, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, OX11 7HR

# WIN tickets to Jay Miller's Circus!

JAY Miller's circus returns to Milestones Basingstoke from Tuesday 22nd October to Sunday 3rd November 2013 with a new production for 2013

Leading the 2013 production, is the very able and talented Ringmaster Mr Ross Farrer, whose patience is once more tested to the limit by that master of mayhem and mirth, everyone's favourite, that zany, unpredictable, clown Peppi.

Ross has pleasure in introducing to you, a selection of international circus artists, including from the Hungarian State Circus, The Jumping Juniors flying high on their teeter board, Blackpool's very own Joel Hatton, whose new routine for 2013 defies danger at every show with his unique Unicycle variation.

Visiting Jay Millers for the first time, is every child's super

**Closing date:**  
**Friday, October 18**

hero Spiderman, taking time out from protecting the streets of America, as he bounds & leaps upon the vertical pole.

Two young Circus stars working together in this exciting new production, are Jodi and Ashli, whose months of practice & dedication is now presented in front of you, our audience, as they pair up on the double hoop.

Appearing back together again after a five year break, presenting both grace & artistry high in the roof of the Big Top, on the Hanging Perch, from Budapest, Krisztian & Zsofia. With Strength & Body balance, witness those Men In Black, whose act challenges gravity &



stamina with every movement. Appearing in her debut year is the delightful Miss Paige Miller, contortionist & future flexible star of the Circus World, Miss Monika who having appeared in Galas throughout Europe over the Winter Season, performs upon the aerial tissues.

Jay Millers Circus once again a fantastic Show, an all human production, Choreographed to be suitable for the family audience.

Please book early to avoid disappointment. "We look forward to entertaining you".

We have ten sets of family tickets that can take four people of any age to this great show. To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer this simple question:

**Q: WHO IS THE CONTORTIONIST AT JAY MILLER'S CIRCUS?**



To enter more competitions like this, go online to [basingstokeobserver.co.uk](http://basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

For full terms & conditions go to [basingstokeobserver.co.uk/competitions](http://basingstokeobserver.co.uk/competitions)

# Beale Park is going a bit batty this October!

BEALE Park, at Lower Basilston in Berkshire, is offering a variety of additional activities to entertain the children this October, with an Autumn Trail, Junior Keeper Sessions and a Bat Box Building Workshop, as our younger visitors are encouraged to go a bit batty!

And, for the less adventurous, the Park will be hosting a Gift Event for customers to enjoy gift shopping away from the high street.

Activities Include:

Batty Autumn Trail: There's great fun in store for all the family with a "Batty Autumn Trail". For just 50p you can enter the

bat themed trail and prize draw to win some fantastic prizes. Just look for the clues which are dotted around the Park.

Bat Box Building Day: Following the success of the school holiday's Butterfly Feeder and Bug Hotel Building Days, the Conservation Team is back and ready for action - offering youngsters the chance to build a bat box for their garden visitors.

So, if you fancy having a batty half hour, join us in the Park on Wednesday 30th October 2013, and build your own box! The drop in session will run from 11am to 2pm, for a nominal fee of £5 a box.





# Competitions

## WIN Sun Maid goodie packs!



OCTOBER'S arrived and the kids are back to school; so amongst all the uniform and stationary shopping is one of the hardest tasks of them all, the lunch box filling! There's nothing harder than satisfying the taste buds of our little darlings whilst also ensuring a healthy diet. Thankfully help is on hand from iconic Californian brand, Sun-Maid, with their naturally tasty, healthy raisins.

Unlike other brands, Sun-Maid Raisins are 100% natural with no added sugars, preservatives or glazing agents. Luscious ripe grapes and a lot of sunshine go into creating these tasty treats that are a healthy alternative to sweets and crisps in children's

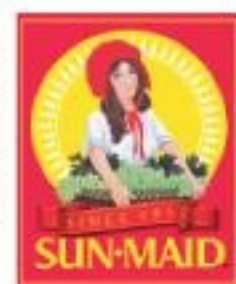
**Closing date:**  
Friday, October 25

lunchboxes. They are also a great way to ensure your kids are filling up on their fruit, counting as one of their 5 a day.

To find out more about Sun-Maid's products visit [www.sun-maid.co.uk](http://www.sun-maid.co.uk)

Sun-Maid is offering you the chance to win a package of Sun-Maid treats and goodies! The prize worth £40 will be filled up of their finest products ensuring it's not just the kids who get to enjoy a delicious lunch time treat.

**Q: WHAT ARE THE MAIN INGREDIENTS USED IN SUN-MAID'S SCRUMPTIOUS RAISINS?**  
Grapes and Sunshine, Sugar and Water or Additives and Preservatives?



To enter more competitions like this, go online to [basingstokeobserver.co.uk](http://basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

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## What's new on the Golf GTi?

IT NEEDS very little introduction. After all, the Golf GTi has been with us for 37 years. So what's new on this latest Mark VII?

REVIEW: GOLF GTi

By Philip Shoulder

@writeonmotoring

For the first time two power levels are offered: the standard 220 PS GTi and the GTi Performance, a £980 option which increases power to 230 P adds larger brake discs and a front limited-slip differential.

Both boast ADC (Automatic Distance Control) with City Emergency Braking, a Driver Alert System, PreCrash preventative occupant protection and Driver Profile Selection.

The new 2.0-litre turbocharged direct-injection petrol engine (TSI) pumps out 220 PS and 350 Nm (258 lbs ft) of torque, resulting in a 6.5 second sprint to 62 mph and an Autobahn-storming 152mph top speed. But it's also cleaner, with a claimed 47.1 combined mpg.

A slick close ratio six-speed

manual gearbox is standard, although a six-speed DSG auto is optional. Both have their own character.

Variable ratio steering provides progressive and smooth inputs; the body remains flat and stable even under hard cornering and there's tons of grip. Yet for a sporting model the GTi's ride is also impressively pliant: optional adaptive chassis control (£795) allows you to tailor the firmness of the car's suspension.

Overall fit and finish and quality of cabin materials is very high. The GTi's classic tartan 'Jacara' cloth sports seats, red ambient lighting, bespoke steering wheel, gear lever and instrument cluster are stand out design features.

The 5.8-inch colour touch-screen infotainment system, incorporating digital radio, Bluetooth, iPod connectivity and satellite navigation, boasts intuitive functionality. A 400 watt Dynaudio soundpack option is also available.

Slightly larger exterior dimensions over the previous mark VI Golf give a more spacious cabin. Taller occupants are well catered for by 15mm more rear legroom.

### VERDICT

Volkswagen's new GTi is a better proposition than its predecessor: being faster, more dynamic, lighter yet safer and boasting considerably higher efficiency.

If you're looking for raw thrills, you'll be better served with a Renault Megane Renaultsport 265 Cup, or a Ford ST, both of which offer more fun. However, neither rival can match the Golf's quality, panache and breadth of all-round ability.



• The new Golf GTi



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Mazda 3 1.6D TS 5Dr HAT	Blue	18688	DC59HLV	2009	£8499
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Mazda 5 1.8 Takara	Blue	32000	WG10HHE	2010	£8990
Mazda 5 2.0 Takara Auto	Grey	23000	GF10SDZ	2010	£9999
Mazda 6 5Dr HAT 2.2D 163 TS2	Silver	52587	SK59VBZ	2009	£8499
Mazda 6 5Dr HAT 2.2D 163 TS2	Red	45000	RO10OPY	2011	£11000
Mx-5 1.8	Silver	25926	WR07UFW	2007	£6499
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**BEDS**, Twin single trundle beds, one stores under the other when not in use, £40, 01256 418814

**ROCKING** chair, Two rocking chairs, will sell separately, £20 each, 01256 418814

**PRAM**, Graco Mirage Plus, £40, 01256 418814

**KINGSIZE** mattress, Sealy Kingsize firm mattress in excellent condition., £20, 07717772095

**BOB** The Builder Bicycle, Brand New Never been Used Childs Bicycle up to 6 years old Similar to those in Argos of Fireman Sam selling for £90, 40, 07831947754

**CAR** Seat From Birth, Brand New Never Been Used, £25, 07831947754

**COFFEE** set, 6 cups and saucers, £6, 07967305362

**DOG** lead, Extending dog lead, £8, 07967305362

**TV STAND**, Smoked glass TV Stand, suitable for TV's up to 47" Excellent condition., £35, 07967305362

**HARRY** Potter, Harry Potter collectors stamps, £10, 07967305362

**MATTRESS**, Single 3ft Mattress, £15, 7967305362

**DENIM** Jacket, Ladies denim jacket, size 12., £8, 07967305362

**STUDY** Books, ESOL study books LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2, £6 each, 07967305362

**DANCING** shoes, Ladies dancing shoes UK size 5 EU size 37 in Gold, £12, 07967305362

**NEW** Dancing shoes, Ladies dancing shoes UK size 5 EU size 37 in Gold, £12, 07967305362

**SPIDER** Plants, 7 spider plants home grown, £1.50 each or two for £2.50, 07967305362

**DREAMS** Mattress Protector, Two Mattress Protectors brand new still in their wrapping cost £17.99, £8 each, 01256389490

**VINTAGE** Shoes, 1930s Silver over Kid leather. Size 4ish., £20 ono, 01256 0357866

**SINGLE** Bed Head (Gold; 3 ft), Elegant gold style metal bed head for 3 ft single bed. As new condition., £25, 01256767042

**REAL** wood veneer G Plan bedroom furniture set, G Plan real wood veneer (American Oak) bedroom range in very good to excellent condition. Double wrobe, triple robe/shelves/drawers, 2 x 3 drawer units, 2 x bed sides, 1 x corner unit, mirror for drawers to make dressing table. Robes flat pack for transport. Assembly instructions included., £450 for 8 items, 01256767042

**SINGLE** Bed (3 ft) - superior quality, Slumberland single (3ft) sprung divan bed, with superior grade Simmons "Beautyrest" pocket sprung fire-resistant mattress with wool in its fabric for warmth and comfort. Base has two drawers. As new condition and mattress is hardly used, and from a smoke and pet free home., £100, 01256767042

**WOODEN** wall display shelf & drawer unit, Elegant dark wood wall display unit for small trinkets and collectables, with 3 display levels and a small drawer. About 1 ft 4 in wide by 2 ft tall and 4 in deep., £10, 01256767042

**BED** base, 3ft, with drawers, as new. Buyer collects., £5, 01256 334075

**DINING** room table, wooden oval 5' x 3' in very good condition with heatproof cover, £50, 01256 332525

**MULTIFUEL/WOOD-BURNING** stoves, ex-display models, £300-£800, 07784603904

**CHEST** OF DRAWERS, 3 dr chest, Mahogany. STAG. vgc, £60, 01256470765

**DR WHO** MONOPOLY, Boxed and unopened. Collector or just for all age fun., £20, 01256 0357866

**DR WHO** Dalek Cufflinks, Boxed. Wear for the 50th Anniversary, £10, 01256 0357866

**DR WHO** Electronic Boardgame, fun game, £5, 01256 0357866

**DR WHO** Dalek Operation, New take on a fun family game. Good condition., £5, 01256 0357866

**AMBER** Necklace, Baltic amber with each bead knotted., £20, 01256 0357866

**GNOMEBOOKS**, Complete set of 25 'Wisdom of the Gnomes', £15, 01256 0357866

**PEWTER** Wine Goblets, 2....simple useable size and shape., £10, 01256 0357866

**NINTENDO** DS Games, Various. Crosswords. Sight Training, £5 each or offers, 01256 0357866

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# We'll definitely turn our season around

**BASINGSTOKE RFC forwards coach Will Croker says the signs are all there to suggest an upturn in the side's fortunes.**

The Down Grange club lost their fourth match out of four in the National League Three South this season, going down 25-10 at Bury St Edmunds on Saturday.

However, as with the previous two games, 'Stoke have been well in the contest, before falling away in the last quarter of the game.

**By James Booker**

[news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk](mailto:news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk)

Stoke had started at a blistering pace, with Freddie Gleadowe touching down and Adam Davies converting to make it 0-7.

And they were just 15-10 down going into the last few minutes, before Bury pulled away in the final stages.

Croker, who took temporary charge of the team with his brother James absent through

ill health, feels the team have had a tough start.

"We've been dealt a very tough draw - we've played the top four sides in the first four weeks, because of our cancellation against Thurrock [the previous weekend]," he said.

"What's frustrating is that we've been in three of the games until the hour mark, and then we've not been able to see it off."

The team have lost several key experienced players since last season, notably Ollie Johns, who

moved to New Zealand, skipper Neil Young who retired, and Will Ford, absent with a long-term injury.

And Croker said their less experienced replacements are having to quickly adjust to life in a higher division.

"Those guys have played over 400 games between them - we've got some inexperienced guys this season.

"Yes we would like to be in a stronger position, but we're certainly not panicking yet, and we feel there is a lot more to come.

"The side are definitely improving, and we've been able to get some guys back over the last few weeks, such as Adam Davies, Freddie Gleadowe, Matt Guilfoyle and Ryan Davis.

"Those guys have first team experience, which makes a big difference.

"The younger guys now have four games of National League rugby under their belts, and they're starting to get acclimatised to the pace and the physicality. We're definitely getting better."

## Sport Bites

### Dan's the man

**BASINGSTOKE** and North Hants CC skipper Dan Coombs has been crowned the club's first team player of the year awards at its annual awards night.

Coombs captained the side that won the title of the Southern League Two title on the last day of the season, ahead of Hursley Park.

Grant Rouse scooped the award for the second eleven, while Andy Neal won the award for the third team.

### Brave Wintney out of Hants Cup

**HARTLEY** Wintney could not pull off another cup shock as they were beaten by Skril South side Havant and Waterlooville at the Memorial Ground on Tuesday night.

Havant ran out 3-0 winners in the Hampshire Senior Cup clash.

Hartley did, however, beat Horley Town 2-0 at the weekend to continue their impressive Combined Counties Premier form.

## Collard and Foster hope for strong finishes



• Nick Foster (front) and Rob Collard had a tough weekend at Silverstone last time out (Picture courtesy of btcc.net)

**ROB** Collard and Nick Foster will want to finish the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) season on a high, after what has been a largely disappointing year for the two North Hampshire drivers.

Both drivers head to Brands Hatch for the final race of 2013 on Sunday on the Grand Prix circuit, as the Kent track bookends the season after holding the first race back in March.

While team-mate Colin Turkington is still in championship contention, Collard and Foster are 14th and 15th in the standings respectively.

Collard has only picked one podium all season with a third place at Knockhill, after scoring seven in 2012 on his way to fifth in the championship.

He has struggled at the Brands Hatch GP circuit in recent years, with only two points finishes in six races since 2011.

Meanwhile, Foster has only managed a best result of 10th at the circuit.

## Spoils shared after Bison and Guildford clashes

**HONOURS** were even after Basingstoke Bison's double header against fierce rivals and reigning EPL champions Guildford Flames last weekend.

Saturday night's clash at the Basingstoke Arena saw the Flames edge out Doug Sheppard's men 3-2.

However, the Herd exacted swift revenge on Sunday with a 5-4 shoot-out win over the Surrey outfit.

Joe Rand netted on a powerplay to give the Bison the lead on Saturday night, before Guildford roared back with goals from Curtis Huppe, Branislav Kveten and Marcus Kristoffersson.

Sheppard pulled one back for the home side, but the visitors

held on for victory.

The following evening saw the Bison fight back from 3-1 down - Joe Greener grabbing a goal for the visitors - to send the clash into overtime at 4-4.

Rand, Greener and Andy Melachrinio struck for the Herd, while Ricky Plant netted for Guildford.

Five minutes of overtime could not separate the sides, and netminder Dean Skinns pulled off the decisive save from David Savage gave the extra point to Sheppard's side.

Bison will hope to carry some momentum generated from the win into this weekend, where a home game against Telford Tigers and a trip to Peterborough to face the Phantoms awaits.

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**Inside:** We'll definitely turn our season around | Collard and Foster hope for strong finishes

# WE COULD HAVE HAD 10 OR MORE

## Basingstoke brush aside US Portsmouth to progress to third round of Hants Cup

**BASINGSTOKE** Town boss Jason Bristow believes his side could have reached double figures in their Hampshire Senior Cup clash with US Portsmouth on Tuesday.

A Manny Williams brace and a Minhaz Uddin own goal gave Bristow side a 3-1 win - their first in any competition since the end of August.

And it was pretty much one-way traffic for 90 minutes as Stoke eased into the third round.

"Our play deserved a lot more goals - we created a lot of chances and, in truth, could have had double figures," said the Dragons boss.

"But the chances were well created - it's a shame we didn't put a few more away but our overall performance was good."

The Basingstoke starting 11 saw four changes from the side who lost 1-0 at the Camrose to Hayes and Yeading on Saturday.

**By James Booker**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Joe McDonald replaced Louis Wells in goal, while Ross Adams replaced the rested Jay Gasson.

Robbie Matthews came in for Kezie Ibe up front, while Andrew Jenkinson started in place of the Matt Partridge, who was unavailable.

Bristow felt that the defeat at the weekend was down to a bluntness in the final third of the pitch.

"We just lacked the cutting edge in the final third," he said.

"Once again we dominated in terms of play - we played some really good football, and Hayes didn't really look like scoring for a lot of the game."

"Unfortunately we didn't either."

He remains confident that everything will soon click for his side.

After a bright start to the season, with four wins from five in all competitions, their last victory came against Staines on August 31.

They had lost three in a row before Tuesday's game.

"It's coming together. We're creating - we just need to turn those opportunities into chances and those chances into goals."

"All the games we have lost this season are games we should have drawn or maybe even won."

"We are building a process here and a lot of the performances have generally been really good."

"We were well on top on Saturday, but we need to take it one step further."

Basingstoke, currently 12th in the Skrill South, now face a trip Havant and Waterlooville in two days time for their next league encounter.



• Manny Williams (right) netted twice for Basingstoke against US Portsmouth on Tuesday night (Picture by Les Chase)

**US Portsmouth 1  
Basingstoke Town 3**

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